News-item Captioned as "Soochana Kranti Ka Kamaal"

†3802. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated the 12th February, 2002 under the caption "Soochana Kranti Ka Kamaal—Internet par lagi deh ki haat"; and

(b) the concrete steps being contemplated by Government to check such incidents of vulgarity on Internet?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has a provision to make carriage of obscene contents through networks a punishable offence. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are required to ensure as per license agreement that their networks do not carry obscene materials. They are making efforts to block obscene sites to the extent possible. There has been considerable awareness grown in the country about the harmful effect of such misuse of internet. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has already hosted a web site (netsafety.nic.in) for the benefit of public in this regard.

Check on wasteful expenditure

†3803. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any measures to check wasteful expenditure and has identified such areas in its various Departments where wasteful expenditure is maximum;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the areas and the wasteful expenditure incurred annually by them during the last three years; and

(c) the corrective measures taken so far to lessen/stop such wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are no areas of wasteful expenditure in the Departments under this Ministry, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

O.F.C. Network in the Country

3804. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the plan for adding more Optical Fibre Cable network in the telecom sector during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) the number of direct exchange lines to be added during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has a plan to add 75000 RKMs of Optical Fibre Cable network and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to add 2060 RKMs of Optical Fibre Cable network during 2002-2003.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited proposes to add 64.34 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to add 5.49 lakh Direct Exchanges Lines (DELs) during the year 2002-2003.